

Editor's note

Biodiversity is abundant in China, but human activities have endangered many species, reducing numbers to the brink of extinction [1]. The Chinese government has increased financial funding for various conservation projects over the past decade, but although every biological conservation study and survey on wild animals provides essential and important scientific data, the results have been inadequate for the Chinese government to draw up effective conservation policies. To address this situation, the *Chinese Science Bulletin*, as the flagship magazine in China, published a Special Topic on Conservation Biology of Endangered Wildlife [2–13] in August 2011 (via a rapid publication avenue of ‘quick review, quick revision, and quick publication’). The published articles provided relevant results enabling the Chinese government to design conservation strategies. The Special Topic also attracted more scholars to publish their findings on the Special Topic/Issue platform of the *Chinese Science Bulletin*.

Our 2011 Special Topic on Conservation Biology of Endangered Wildlife has had a great impact on the scientific community and since its publication many developments in the field of conservation biology have occurred [14]. To highlight the relevant topics, we will publish an annual Special Issue dedicated to endangered wildlife. The 2013 Special Issue is entitled Adaptive Evolution and Conservation Ecology of Wild Animals and comprises 24 papers [15–38]. These articles from top researchers contain up-to-date data, and will continue to provide the Chinese government with the information that they need to implement effective conservation strategies.

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